



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

is probably the one on which recent research has had most that is new to tell us ; but the information has been sadly scattered and often difficult to find. This is well seen in the author's earliest chapters, for he begins at an earlier period than is usual, assigning two chapters to Pre-Roman Britain, and dealing at considerable length with the time of the Roman occupation. Indeed, a uniform system of treatment enables him to give us an amount of detail far greater than that which we meet with in general histories, while avoiding the extreme diffuseness of such works as those of Mr. Freeman. His fairness and caution are well seen in his attitude towards the "great commendation" of 921. While guardedly rejecting the story as it stands, he observes that the point has been made too much of, as the overlordship of Æthelstan is clear enough. In connection with this subject, one should point out that he claims to have localized the battle of Brunanburh (an old point of difficulty) at Bourne in Lincolnshire. To battles, indeed, Sir James has devoted special attention, from that of the "Mons Graupius" downwards ; and on those of Hastings and of Lincoln he has views of his own to advance.

The period subsequent to the Norman Conquest, on which I am most at home, is the subject of his second volume. I have found it singularly free from slips and absolutely packed with information. Although political history occupies the chief place, the development of institutions, the state of society, the condition of the revenue, the changes in architecture, the foundation of religious houses, and similar subjects are among those which receive attention, while the issue of each sovereign is catalogued with special care. That Sir James's work can hope to appeal to the general reader is of course impossible : its place is on the student's shelves. The fault that has been found with it is that it is dull, that one cannot read it with pleasure. The author's style, no doubt, is ponderous, his work rather a repertory of facts than the history of which the critic dreams. But it is not given to us all to write with the brilliancy of Macaulay or of Green, or the vivacity of Professor Maitland. There is room for history of every kind, except for that which is false. For my part, I feel that gratitude is due to an author who has placed at our disposal so useful a work of reference, and has, among his other merits, devoted infinite pains to identifying persons and places. An index of fifty pages, though not absolutely exhaustive, is well-arranged and adequate. Sir James, it may be added, is now at work on the reign of Henry II., and hopes, in time, to complete his history down to the wars of the Roses, the period treated in his two volumes entitled *Lancaster and York*.

J. H. ROUND.

History of Scotland. By P. HUME BROWN. Vol. I., To the Accession of Mary Stewart. [Cambridge Historical Series.] (Cambridge : University Press. New York : The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. xviii, 408.)

MR. HUME BROWN has recorded in a clear and logical fashion the narrative of the development of a Scottish nation and the turbulent inter-

nal life of that nation up to the moment of the Reformation, and herein lies the chief value of the present work. Students of English history, and particularly of medieval English history, have been too much inclined to regard Scotland from the point of view obtaining in the Middle Ages at Westminster (where the dwellers north of Tweed were often described as *Scotii inimici et rebeli*), and to leave out of account certain facts in Scottish history of high importance in their own field of inquiry. Several points of this sort are well developed in the present work. Take, for example, the battle of Carham where in 1018 Malcolm II., by the acquisition of Lothian, determined the ultimate predominance of the Saxon over the Celt in that racial amalgamation which was soon to produce a Scottish people. The student of English institutions who seeks to account for the ready reception of Norman feudalism and Anglo-Norman law in the Scotland of the twelfth century, must turn for his explanation to the event of 1018. Mr. Hume Brown would reckon Carham with Hastings rather than with Bannockburn, in the list of English battles. The day will come, perhaps, when Clontarf, as well as Carham, will find a place in this list. The complement of Carham was the bloody fight at Harlaw where, in 1411, the last effort of the Celts of the north to assert their national consciousness was utterly crushed. The importance attributed in the present work to these events leads to the development of another point too frequently overlooked. This is the fact that up to the close of the thirteenth century Scotland exhibited a national development more advanced than that of any other country of western Europe except England. This was arrested by the disaster involved in the failure of the direct royal line in 1290, and the subsequent feudal chaos and general demoralization of the kingdom have been allowed to obscure, to a great extent, its earlier national development. Again, any one investigating the early foreign relations of England will find that Scotland forms an important link in all relations with northern Europe, and particularly with Scandinavia.

Beside the exploitation of these too much neglected matters the present work also casts new light on periods and events more generally familiar. The narrative of the last years of David II.'s reign (p. 179), is based on recently published material and differs substantially from that given by Tytler and Hill Burton. In like manner an important despatch from Bishop Kennedy to Louis XI. of France discredits the account of James III.'s reign given by Pinkerton and Tytler and tends to rehabilitate the authority of Buchanan's *Historia* (p. 249). Finally, Mr. Hume Brown's narrative of the battle of Solway Moss (pp. 393-395), based on the Hamilton Papers, differs materially from the traditional accounts of that engagement.

But so many advantages are scarcely to be expected without some corresponding drawbacks. Among the worst of these is the unmistakable weakness of the book in constitutional matters. It is true that the constitutional history of Scotland has yet to be written; Robertson and Skene have not answered all our questions and in many cases what they have to

tell us must be regarded with suspicion. Under these circumstances it would perhaps have been wise if Mr. Hume Brown had confined himself to the narrative history in which he has been so successful. It is difficult, in view of such knowledge of the Celtic tribal system as we possess, to accept his explanation of the *mormaers* as hereditary royal officials (pp. 45-46). The use of the term king's court in connection with the *commune concilium* (pp. 108-109) is misleading, particularly when the same body is, on a later page, more properly styled the Great Council (p. 117). The statement that under David I. the system of inquest had almost entirely displaced the older forms of procedure (p. 91), will be hesitatingly accepted. The suspicion thus raised is not allayed by the fact that the author appears to accept the view that English boroughs had their origin in municipalities (p. 7), and speaks of escheats "imposed" by the justiciars (p. 341). The accounts of the social and economic conditions of Scotland appear to be based exclusively on legislative acts, which are scarcely a satisfactory source unless confirmed by further material.

A more serious fault than any of these, however, lies in the general tone of the book in regard to England. The author is Scottish rather than British and constantly betrays a feeling of rancor against England curiously inconsistent with his otherwise large outlook. It would be supposed that a nineteenth-century Scot, capable of applauding the achievement of Malcolm II. in Teutonizing Scotland, would see that the best ideal of his country was to be associated with the destiny of Great Britain, and that this vision would have made impossible the narrow and bitter outbreak against Edward I. to which Mr. Hume Brown treats himself (p. 155).

One or two minor faults have been noticed. The iteration of the word "outstanding" for prominent or striking, and of the phrase "give to the flames" for set fire to or burn is doubly provoking by reason of the otherwise simple and direct quality of the style. On p. 235 (note), "bearing that" seems to be a misprint for "bearing date." The statement (p. 70) that Norham Castle was founded by Henry I. is not borne out by the authorities. The district of Norham was a parcel of the highly privileged bishopric of Durham (afterwards a county palatine) and the castle was built by Ranulf Flambard, the then bishop, in the year 1121.¹ It is to be regretted that the circumstances of publication did not permit a more frequent and explicit citation of authorities, and that the edition or date of publication of works enumerated in the bibliography should not in all cases have been supplied.

In conclusion, students are to be congratulated on having in this work a direct and concise statement, based largely on original sources, of the events of Scottish history up to the Reformation; a blessing which all who have sought in vain for some desired information in the smug pages of Hill Burton, will be quick to appreciate.

GAILLARD THOMAS LAPSLEY.

¹ Symeon of Durham (Rolls Series), II. 260; cf. Roger de Hoveden (Rolls Series), II. 64-65, and Raine, *North Durham*, 284.